



"Challenge Life Hoop Tournament A Community Success"

The "Challenge Life Corporate/Family Basketball Tournament" attracted 23 teams and over 275 participants for a thrilling three days of hoops and health. Players of every age participated in the family division (10 teams), the corporate division (13 teams) and in some cases both divisions. To add to the festivities, "Challenge Life" brought Alaska's newest professional basketball team, the Alaska Dream, to Barrow. Ten members of the Anchorage based Dream, officiated games, put on basketball clinics, spoke to students about the importance of an education and taking care of your body and played an exhibition game.

The tournament guaranteed each team would play three games with some quintets playing as many as six games. When the smoke finally cleared, the NSB Elite team (led by Brian McFadden and Greer Saunders) captured the corporate division and the Hopson Middle School girls number two team defeated the Edwardsen's to win the family division. Although tournament organizer, Mike Hajdukovich, jokingly extolled the virtues of winning the coveted long sleeve red championship tee shirts, the real

winners were the participating players. As Mike exclaimed, on a more serious note, "this tournament is an example of the healthy fun activities communities can produce especially when you have the type collaboration and assistance we received from the "Diabetes Foundation," the NSB Healthy Communities Program, Frontier Alaska and ASRC."

"Challenge Life" is preparing a series of additional events in the eight Arctic Region communities and recently concluded school events including art classes, a mentoring program and athletics in Point Lay, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, Point Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass.